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An Ideal City For Good Investments

A Model City.

Ardmore is a model city in every respect. It enjoys the latest municipal improvements and is not wanting in any direction. The streets of the city are lighted by electricity furnished by a private corporation, and practically every building and residence is equipped with electric lights.

One of the most important recent improvements to the city is the construction of a handsome and imposing City Hall building, erected at a cost of \$155,000. This structure has just been completed and would be a credit to any city. It is built of brick and covers an area of ground fifty by one hundred feet. The ground floor of the building is used by the fire and police departments of the city, it being taken up by the fire apparatus and the prison cells. The second floor of the structure is taken up by the municipal offices, which are finely furnished and equipped.

The fire department of the city is, indeed, a well equipped one. It consists of one engine of the latest pattern, having a capacity of 550 gallons a minute; a hose wagon, with 2,000 feet of hose, and a chemical engine, equipped with two tanks of 60 gallons capacity each. L. C. Slaughter is chief with Bert Parker as assistant chief.

The city has a complete water and sewerage system, which is continually being extended. The waterworks system was installed two years ago at a cost of \$162,000, and thirteen miles of water mains have been laid. The water is supplied from Lake Dick, four miles north of the city, which is 240 acres in area. The pumping station of the system at the lake is equipped with two pumps, with a capacity of 60,000 gallons an hour each. The standpipe of the system is located half way between the lake and the city, and is twenty-five feet in diameter and one hundred and twenty-five feet in height. The system has four hundred and seventy-five consumers and is a self-sustaining institution. The sewerage system, installed also two years ago at a cost of \$30,000, has been laid for nearly two miles and has one hundred and forty-three connections. It is a source of revenue to the city, and is being extended as fast as possible.

Ardmore's Infancy.

Ardmore can be said to be in the nineteenth year of its age. In the early part of 1887 the present city became known to the early settlers of this section. Its population at that time, however, was exceedingly small, and there was no immediate prospect of its gaining any special prominence as a city of the Indian Territory.

Slowly, but surely, the white population was increased by people mostly from the southern and central eastern states. The first officers of the city were: Mayor, John Galt; Chief of Police, A. S. Pulliam; City Recorder, Dave Best; Tax Collector, William Green. The phenomenal growth of the city as a center of commerce, manufacturing interests and homes occurred in the last seven years. In that time the population has increased from 5,000 to 15,000. Four years ago the city was incorporated as a city of the first class. An idea of the prosperity of the city can be gathered from the fact that the personal taxable property is estimated at \$4,000,000, and the real taxable property at the same figures. The tax receipts for the city for the past year aggregated \$63,000, which does not include the revenue from occupation, street and alley or water and sewerage tax.

The local residents are unanimous in the purpose of advancing Ardmore and it is apparent that they realize that such ends can best be accomplished by selecting the most competent men for the city officers, regardless of their political inclinations.

Bond Issue.

The citizens of the town on April 7th of the present year voted in favor of bonds to the amount of \$120,000. This will be expended for two new school houses, extension of the waterworks and sewer mains. These improvements will commence within the next few weeks.

Ardmore's Commercial Club.

In this day of enterprise, push and progress, when competition and rivalry in city building is keen, and every town and city is anxious to public to the world the peculiar advantages and resources of its particular municipalities and environments, the necessity of commercial clubs is more apparent than ever before. In fact, a town or city without some sort of an organization to look after its public affairs, to invite new

capital and enterprise to locate within its borders and new people to come in and swell the population, is considered a "back number," and such towns can never expect to amount to very much in the race for supremacy from a municipal or commercial standpoint. The lack of a commercial club in a town shows the place as non-progressive and shows a lack of enterprise and push that marks it as a good place for investors and prospectors to steer clear of.

Ardmore is not to be counted among this latter class. She has a live, progressive, enterprising citizenship, and as a matter of course, a live commercial organization. The new Ardmore Commercial club was organized in February, 1905, to take the place of the Chamber of Commerce.

The new body started out with a membership of thirty-three. It now has a membership of one hundred and sixty and is growing. It is in good financial condition.

The membership is composed of the leading financial, business and professional men of the city, who have the best interest of Ardmore at heart and who act in unison and concert for the advancement of the city and her interests. The directory is composed of some of the ablest men in the country, men who are conservative and thoughtful and who thoroughly understand business and financial conditions. It may be said that in securing the land office for the city, several of the directors of the commercial club played a most important part. The directors are men of action and are clearing the path for a greater Ardmore.

Hon. Lee Cruise, the president, is one of the pioneers of the city and is too well known to comment upon.

For information concerning Ardmore write R. L. Sanders, secretary of the Commercial club.

United Confederate Veterans.

History recalls no greater deed of valor, no more self sacrificing devotion to a cause nor more striking example of heroism than the part displayed by the soldier of the beloved southland in the late civil war. Though time has thinned the ranks, the memory of those beneath the sod will be held forever in high reverence. No monument of marble, stone or green with the verdure of love which no mortal hand can mold. Time cannot fade nor tide extinguish the loving light which burns in memory of those who have gone before. Year by year the ranks grow less. The white frosted veterans of the late conflict, whose steps now falter, will soon meet in annual reunion at New Orleans. What memories do these reunions recall with side by side they recount reminiscences of the days when they fought together for one common cause.

Old soldier of the southland, you can falter to pay you the rich tribute you deserve. Your name will be forever linked with that of the happy southland in whose broad land your brothers sleep. New Orleans will re-echo with the tender memories of your deeds and pay you tribute.

The annual reunion of the veterans will be held in New Orleans beginning April 23 and probably the largest delegation from the Indian Territory that has ever been sent will go. The reunion promises to be a gala event and all railroad lines in the south are offering special inducements for the occasion. Indications are that a splendid delegation of veterans, sons and daughters and friends will leave here April 21.

General J. L. Galt, commander of the Indian Territory veterans, a man who is strongly identified with the affairs of the veterans, will accompany the Ardmore delegation to the reunion. Gen. Galt is a commanding figure at all reunions and perhaps has a wider acquaintance than any officer in the south. His great and unselfish loyalty to the cause, his interest in the affairs of the old soldier, has gained for him the friendship of hundreds who figure in the reunion. Gen. Galt is a soldier under his father in the first regiment that went from Georgia and he made a noble soldier. Since the war no one has taken a greater interest nor worked harder for the United Confederate Veterans than Gen. Galt and it is safe to state that he will attract unusual attention at the convention and as a fitting representative from the Indian Territory.

Gen. Galt's selection of Miss F. J. Mullen was indeed a wise one. A typical daughter of the southland, possessing womanly qualities, admired by everybody, Miss Mullen will lend dignity to the occasion. Miss Mullen is a daughter of Col. and Mrs.

J. P. Mullen of this city and is quite prominent in social circles.

Daughters of the Confederacy.

The noble Daughters of the Confederacy represent a striking example of devotion and loyalty and in the broad southland are held in the highest esteem. Banded together for the purpose of keeping green the memory of the soldier, the Daughters of the Confederacy will always be conspicuous, loved and admired for the preservation of their purpose. They are among the highest type of womanhood whose good deeds will shine with the lustre of their efforts.

In Ardmore the Daughters of the Confederacy are unusually strong in numbers and their organization is a fine one. The Chickasaw Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy has for its president, Mrs. B. J. Carter, who has always displayed a keen interest in the organization.

Religious Outlook.

Speaking of the religious outlook for Ardmore, Rev. C. C. With says:

"In every phase of moral life where the people have had the power of control, they have kept fully abreast of the times. This is especially noticeable in matters religious."

"The Indian Territory has for years been denied the privilege of public schools, so the people established the private school system in every country neighborhood, town and city in the territory. And as with schools, so with churches. The preacher has ever been the pioneer of the country. From the days when the Pilgrims brought their pastor with them in the Mayflower, and the first settlers of Connecticut took with them Rev. Thomas Hooker, this has been an American idea. New settlements have always had their ministers with them. The Indian Territory has been for years the Mecca of the pioneer pastor who rode from field to field carrying the gospel to the scattered settlements of whites and Indians."

In this development Ardmore has fully kept pace. Since the very first settlement of our city the gospel has been preached to our citizens. And at the present almost every denomination is represented, not only by a congregation and church building but also by a resident pastor. The Methodists, the Baptists, the Presbyterians, the Cumberland Presbyterians, the Christians, the Episcopalians, and the Catholics, each have church buildings and resident pastors who preach every Sabbath in their respective churches. There are also six churches of the colored people.

There is no better test of the character of the residents of any city than in their liberality in the support of churches. In this test Ardmore ranks high. Modest buildings were erected in an early day and as fast as congregations became able these small buildings are being replaced by large and artistic houses of worship.

"The personnel of Ardmore's ministry ranks high. The pastors all are strong, able men and highly appreciated by their people. Nowhere has the influence of the ministry been greater or more felt than here, in every moral phase of the city's development, the ministry has been in the lead and the people have rallied to their support in these great issues that make for good homes, good citizens and good morals."

It has been repeatedly noticed that new comers are astonished when coming to Ardmore, that instead of finding a "wide open" frontier town, in which the town and gambling element set the pace that we have a city in which the moral and law abiding element is in control, a city in which the safeguarding of the home and family is the paramount idea. In no city in America are ladies and children safer from violence, insult or evil examples than in our own city, and nowhere is disrespect to religion and its adherents more thoroughly suppressed.

"The people from older states coming here to build homes anew for the growing family can have all the church privileges of the old home and also all the safeguards for the growing sons and daughters that are found in the old home town."

"The generous support, unflinching courtesy and liberality with which the churches have ever been treated by the business men, the general public, the city government and the press, bespeaks a refined and elevated public sentiment and a clean moral citizenship and an elevated moral tone."

"In addition to the above it is necessary also to add that there is an organization of Hebrews in our city. Unlike many places, Ardmore has no prejudice against the Jewish citizen. Not only do our Jewish citizens rank high in commercial interests, but in social and moral affairs their influence and standing is of the very highest. We can always depend upon the few of Ardmore to lend a helping hand in every movement for moral progress."